covering all farmers and all crops (except fruits) in one district of each State/U. T. The draft Pilot Crop Insurance Scheme has since been prepared in consultation with concerned Ministries/agencies and the State Governments/U. Ts. and is under finalisation. Under the PCIS, it is proposed to excluded risks which are of preventable nature.

(d) No, Sir.

Incentive to the Cotton Farming Community

104. SHRI S.S. SURJEWALA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the prices of inputs like pesticide, insectisides etc., have gone sky high and production of cotton affected badly in the cotton belt of the country;

(b) if so, the loss occurred on account of this price rise and whether Government have compensated this loss in the form of subsidy/bonus etc. to the cotton farming community;

(c) whether Government is aware that various cotton diseases viz American Diseases and Ball worm, had diminished cotton production and it is less than one half of the normal production per acre; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to check such diseases ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) During Kharif 1993-94, by and large, low incidence of American ballworm on cotton has been reported from major cotton growing areas in the country and the cotton production is not likely to be diminished significantly.

(d) The following steps have been taken in this regard :

(i) Farmers have been advised to adopt Integrated Pest Management (IMP) approach which includes use of only recommended pesticides and avoiding spray of insecticide mixtures.

(ii) Under the Intensive Cotton Development Programme (ICDP), the Government is providing 25% subsidy on the cost of pesticides, 50% subsidy on the cost of plant protection equipment, 25% subsidy on the cost of tractor-mounted sprayers.

(iii) Farmers are being provided incentives on the use of pheromone traps and Nuclear Polyhedrosis virus (NPV) etc.

Collaboration between Gujarat and Israel

105. SHRI AHMED MOHMEDBHAI PATEL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Collaboration between the State Government of Gujarat and Israel in the areas of fruit, horticulture and wasteland development, have been agreed upon ;

(b) if so, whether Agricultural Export Corporation of Israel have agreed to export various types of fruits etc; and

(c) if so, whether 7 MOUs have been signed with different companies in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) Yes, Sir. The State of Gujarat through its various corporations has signed MOUs with Israeli companies for necessary collaboration in areas of fruits, horticulture, wasteland development, Green House, Drip Irrigation and water management, cotton development, Grape cultivation, etc.

(b) No, Sir. The Agricultural Export Corporation of Israel has so far agreed to export only grapes from India. Further discussions are being held with the Company consider marketing of sapota, ber, and pomegranate from Gujarat.